Ban on Serving Hard Liquor on Domestic Flights

3905. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to ban serving hard liquor on domestic flights ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Aircraft Rules, 1937 do not prohibit serving of liquor on board of flights.

Profits of Air India

3906. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated profits earned by the Air India during 1993 ; and

(b) whether Air India is able to withstand international competition with other international companies and retain its market ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The accounts of Air India are maintained on financial year basis. The net profit earned by Air India during the period April, 1993 to March, 1994 is estimated to be around Rs. 186 crores.

(b) It is the constant endeavour of the management of Air India to improve its market share through upgradation of services, operation to new destinations and induction of modern aircraft to meet the competition from other carriers.

Vayudoot Flights in North East and U.P.

3907. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to operate Vayudoot flights in North-East region ;

(b) whether such move is to boost tourism in that region ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether Government also propose to operate some of Vayudoot flights to certain places of tourist interest of U.P. to boost tourism in that State ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The services are for providing quick mode of transport to the public in general. This will also boost tourism in the area.

(d) and (e) At present there is no such proposal in view of economic and operational constraints of Vayudoot.

Upgradation of Passenger Facilities by Air India

3908. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3066 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1994 and state :

(a) what are the details of steps taken by Air India to upgrade passenger facilities ;

(b) whether these steps would increase the earnings of Air India and benefit the passenger community ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) To upgrade passenger facilities both on air and on ground, Air India has taken the following steps :—

(i) Better flight information is being provided and lounges at airports have been upgraded ;

(ii) Quicker service at booking offices is being provided and Check-in areas have been renovated ;

(iii) Inflight meal service and inflight entertainment service have been improved ;

(iv) Multilingual announcements have been introduced.

(b) and (c) All these steps are aimed at extending greater facilities to passengers to enhance their satisfaction. This will help Air India to increase its market share and thereby its revenue.

Air Accidents

3909. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) What is the number and nature of air mishaps and accidents during the last three years, alongwith details of human and property loss in each case ; and